

MAR 06 2007

Application No.: 10/660,089

Docket No.: JCLA11934

REMARKS**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Present Status of the Application

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers claim 12 allowed. The Office Action, however, has rejected claim 1 as being unpatentable over Miyake et al. (US Patent 6,400,413). Further, the Office Action has objected claims 2-11 and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

After carefully considering the remarks set forth in this Office Action and the cited reference, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3-7, and canceled claim 2 to more clearly define the present invention. After entry of the foregoing amendments, the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C 103 (a)

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Miyake et al. (US Patent 6,400,413).

In response thereto, Applicants have integrated allowable claim 2 into claim 1, which renders the rejection moot. Applicants have rewritten claim 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1, and amended claim 7 is in a condition of allowance.

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Since claims 3-6 and 8-11 are dependent claims which further define the invention recited in claim 1, as a matter of law these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. *In re Fine*, 837, F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

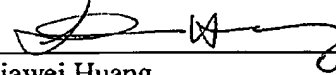
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1 and 3-13 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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